



Finally, auto models
you can afford.

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Lucy and Jorge
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Sunlight in a
dark place.

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Xinhua Photo

Rag trade fiesta calls it a wrap

Best female model award winner Mo Wandan (R) and best male model winner Zhang Xinzhe at the closing ceremony of China Fashion Week International in Beijing Wednesday.

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Karaoke bars in chorus against IPR fees

By Jiang Xubo

Karaoke bars in major cities across the country, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Changsha and Nanjing, have joined a chorus of opposition to plans to levy a daily IPR fee of 12 yuan (US\$1.5) on each KTV booth.

The Guangzhou Association of Culture and Recreation, which oversees entertainment businesses in the southern city, spoke out this Monday against the proposed charges. The statement from the association said they do not accept the copyright usage fee standard issued by the National Copyright Administration (NCA) and will not pay the money.

"How did they work out this rate? Should the NCA have consulted with us, the KTV operators? And how will the income be distributed?" asked Wan Xinqiu, director of Changsha's Karaoke union, which has come out in sympathy with their Guangzhou counterpart. "For starters, 12 yuan per day for each booth is too much for Karaoke bar operators," Wan added.

The capital's KTV owners were quick to lend their voices to the chorus.

"We have come to a decision that we will shoot videos for our songs, like our Shenzhen's counterpart has been doing. It saves money," Wang Zhengheng, vice director of Xicheng District's culture industry society, said in July when the proposed charges were first raised.

The NCA issued the new regulations early this month and chose several major cities for trial implementation, including Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai, in response to the China Audio-Video Association's (CAVA) written demand for a copyright levy in July.

CAVA is the managing body of the country's audio and video trade, a non-government organization for copyright protection under the NCA's auspices.



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Web porn peddler gets life

By Gan Tian

Chen Hui, a man who funded a number of pornographic websites, was sentenced to life imprisonment by Taiyuan Intermediate People's Court on Wednesday.

The court seized some 100,000 yuan of illegal assets from Chen. A further eight persons who had administered the pornographic websites received sentences ranging between 13 months and 10 years.

Chen Hui first rented server space in

the US in 2004, and hired people to begin building pornographic websites. The following year, he set up another three similar sites. By October 3, 2005, the number of registered members at Chen's four websites had reached 600,000, and the sites had recorded over 11 million page views. The sites earned profits of more than 200,000 yuan, half of which went to Chen Hui.

The transmission of pornographic videos and writings is illegal on any medium, includ-

ing the Internet. Authorities are currently implementing a crackdown on such activity.

Xinhua also reported an announcement from the national anti-pornography and anti-piracy office that this week a person was jailed for 12 years for selling pornographic items and fined 5,000 yuan by a court in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Another man convicted of selling pornographic DVDs and VCDs was jailed for five years and six months and fined 10,000 yuan.

Snow expected as temperatures drop

Beijing, along with much of western China, is to see a sharp drop in temperatures and snow by the weekend, China's Central Meteorological Station says.

The station forecast continuous snow and northerly winds of force five to six in the north of the western Xinjiang Autonomous Region and temperatures to drop by six to 10 degrees from Wednesday to Friday.

Rain and snow are forecast across central and eastern China from Thursday to Monday with Qinghai Province and other north-western regions receiving heavy snow.

Beijing will have its first snow on Friday with a lowest temperature of minus four degrees Celsius. (Xinhua)

UNDP to help fight poverty with green technology

By Qiu Jiaoning

Communities living on the arid mountains bordering Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan may soon be able to use the seeds of a locally grown tree for bio-fuel production, thanks to a four-year United Nations project aiming to alleviate poverty in western China.

Jointly established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China and the Chinese government, the US\$8.6 million project was launched on Tuesday in Beijing. It will use green technologies to reduce poverty and improve fragile ecosystems in western China, where the number of people living in poverty is growing.

Called 'Green Poverty Reduction in China', the project prioritizes ethnic minority communities living in ecologically fragile and remote regions of China. The aim is to create new sources of sustenance and to develop green energy for those areas involved in the project.

Alessandra Tisot, UNDP Senior Deputy Resident Representative in China, said, "Fostering the potential of green industries and energy sources in remote mountain areas and deserts is an important vehicle which can generate income and employment opportunities, while protecting the environment."

Through bio-diesel production in Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan, the project aims to create a market for the oil-rich seed of the *Jatropha Curcas L tree*. The tree grows wild in the mountainous regions of western China and is currently used on farms for hedging and to prevent desertification. Its widespread cultivation would hopefully lead to more fertile land in an area where soil erosion and aridity create difficulties for agriculture and the ecosystem.

Along with the production of bio-diesel, the project will develop Jarrah Dayun production in Xinjiang, a plant used as raw material for traditional medicine, and also provide small-scale wind turbines to poor herdsmen in Inner Mongolia. Best practice and lessons gained through these pilot sites will be disseminated as the initiative aims to be extended across the country.

Here comes the Big Bus



The Airbus380, which is on a tour of the Asia-Pacific region, arrived at the Beijing's Capital International Airport Thursday, after landings in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul. Xinhua Photo

Fengtai police sweep rented rooms

By He Jianwei

About 500 policemen from Fengtai district Public Security Bureau (PSB) searched rental accommodation in the Liuliqiao area Tuesday evening.

The police brought 800 citizens back to a central processing station. After checking fingerprints and photos, the police found just one person wanted by Henan provincial PSB on sus-

picion of theft, and 16 people suspected of involvement in prostitution or operating illegal gambling machines.

This action is the first large scale search of rental accommodation in Beijing, according to Liu Yadong, head of the political section at Fengtai PSB.

The make-up of the itinerant population in rental accommodation is quite complex, said Mr Liu.

He claimed that many escaped suspects and thieves are in the habit of hiding out in rented housing, and this was the reason police will be searching such premises between November 6 and December 31.

He did not say how this claim tallied with just two percent of those brought in in Liuliqiao being under any kind of suspicion of criminal behavior.

Coke candy combo sparks death rumors

By Huang Daohen

Could a combination of Mentos peppermint candy and soda cola kill you? That was the shocking rumor that spread like wildfire on the Internet recently. It prompted a firm denial from a spokesperson for the Coca-Cola Company this Wednesday, saying that it was "a malicious rumor" and that their beverage is safe when combined with other food.

What has been called the "boiling-cola" phenomenon was started by a post on an Internet forum which claimed a Brazilian child had died after eating Mentos and drinking Cola together. The post asked people to try combining the two themselves and to be careful with the soda Cola.

There seems little doubt that a combination of Mentos candies and soda cola can cause a violent eruption, and there are numer-

ous homemade videos posted to website YouTube purporting to show the phenomenon. However, whether people have actually died as a result of consuming Mentos with carbonated beverages is another matter.

Though there is no evidence to date proving that the simultaneous consumption of Mentos and cola has caused anyone serious physical harm, experts recommend not trying it.

McDonald's launches China charity fund

By Chu Meng

A new charity was established in China this Monday, the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) China. The fund was set up jointly by the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, a local organization, and Ronald McDonald House Charities International. The UK's Duchess of York will serve as global ambassador for the fund.

The fund will be a China-

based charitable organization working to positively impact the health and well-being of children across the country. Over the next five years RMHC China will develop two Ronald McDonald Children's Centers and 10 Ronald McDonald House Family Foster Villages in 10 cities.

Contributing corporate partners have already raised more than 26 million yuan to fund these projects. In the future RMHC

China will also be encouraging public donations, which can be made at any of McDonald's over 770 restaurants in China. Customers can make a direct donation at any time via in-store RMHC China collection boxes.

US ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. said at the ceremony, "This important charity initiative illustrates the serious commitment of a number of corporations."

Brief news

Over 600 new cases of HIV/Aids

The capital has reported 633 new cases of HIV/Aids in the first 10 months of this year, mainly caused by intravenous drug abuse and unprotected sex, according to figures issued by the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau this week.

Urban air quality

Eleven Chinese cities, including Beijing, Lanzhou, Linfen, Urumqi and Datong, have suffered poor air quality for more than three months during the first three quarters of this year, according to a report issued this week by the State Environmental Protection Administration.

Business bribery

Courts at all levels across the country have filed some 5,500 commercial bribery cases involving civil servants during the first three quarters, up over 3.5 percent on the same period of last year, according to Xiong Xuan-guo, vice president of the Supreme People's Court.

More economic crimes

The police have reported 62,000 economic crimes in the first ten months of this year, up over nine percent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Public Security said this week.

Many more migrant workers

The country's migrant worker population has hit some 115 million, with an estimated seven million new migrants joining the labor force this year, according to the latest statistics issued this Wednesday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Civil service popular

More than half a million Chinese will sit for a national civil service recruitment examination Saturday, competing for some 12,000 job vacancies in around 90 central departments and their regional units, according to the Ministry of Personnel.

Farm deficit up

The trade deficit for the country's farm produce in the first three quarters of this year has hit some US\$2.3 billion, up 45 percent on the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. (By Jiang Xubo)

Investment protection pact signed in New Delhi

New Delhi, November 23 (PTI) – India and China signed a bilateral investment and protection agreement Tuesday aimed at boosting economic ties. The agreement is one of 10 signed Tuesday in diverse areas, including trade, education and health.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, who arrived here Monday evening on a four-day visit, attended

the signing ceremony. President Hu discussed an array of bilateral and global issues, including the decades-old border row, acceleration of trade and investment, civil nuclear cooperation and global issues like UN reforms with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Although the two countries are expected to discuss a proposed

free trade area (FTA), the signing of an FTA is not on the table during Hu's visit.

Knowing Beijing's sensitivities on the Tibetan issue, New Delhi has made it known to Beijing that it recognizes Tibet as an autonomous region of China.

India is also keen to get across to China, which is worried about Indian security-related bars to

Chinese investment here, that New Delhi does not have a discriminatory policy on foreign investment.

China has 30 projects estimated to be worth US\$6.9 billion in India – the largest number Beijing has in any country abroad, according to a Chinese official.

Bilateral trade is expected to exceed US\$20 billion this year.

Gome seals merger deal

Beijing, November 21 (Antara News) – Gome Electrical Appliances Holding Ltd. yesterday announced it had sealed China Paradise takeover at a price of HK\$5.268 billion (US\$677.3 million).

China Paradise's stock stopped trading on November 16 and will be delisted from the Hong Kong bourse by the end of January 2007.

After the delisting, China Paradise will become a fully-owned subsidiary of Gome, with Warburg Pincus and Morgan Stanley as major shareholders. The firm is expected to continue its brand in the Yangtze River Delta market where it has a stronger local presence than Gome.

Gome Chairman Huang Guangyu, ranked China's richest businessman last year, will remain as chairman. Current China Paradise Chairman Chen Xiao will become the new chief executive officer.

The move will create a retail giant with about US\$8 billion in sales and a tenth of the Chinese consumer electronics market, which is luring an increasing number of foreign giants with deep pockets.



Kimchi friendship

Two Korean women demonstrate how to prepare and sell kimchi in Hefei, Anhui Province, as a part of Anhui-Korea Friendship Week. Korean businesses are penetrating into the central and western parts of China.

Xinhua Photo

Israel eyes opportunities in Beijing

Jerusalem (AFP) – Israel is eyeing business opportunities in China ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, as the largest ever Chinese delegation led by Beijing's party boss Liu Qi is visiting the country.

Liu is also president of the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee. Among the delegation are 11 chairmen and leaders of some of the largest Chinese enterprises

in the field of electronics, telecommunications, finance, infrastructure and energy, Boaz Hirsh of the Israeli trade and industry ministry said.

Last year, Israeli exports to China amounted to US\$725 million and Chinese imports rose to US\$2.3 billion.

"For Israeli businesses China has become unavoidable – this market is a real challenge for us,"

Dan Catarivas of Israel's Industrial Association said.

Last year, the US briefly froze Israeli participation in the development of a new generation F-35 fighter jet in protest over Israel selling 'sensitive' military technology and equipment to China.

Washington said the deal, for which China had already paid US\$50-60 million, would threaten its strategic interests.

Deposit ratio required for foreign banks

Beijing, November 23 (AFP) – China will give locally incorporated foreign banks five years to abide by a rule requiring them to keep loans in the local currency below 75 percent of deposits.

The rule, which has been sent out to foreign lenders for comment, is likely to be officially released by the end of November.

China announced last week new

regulations governing foreign banks' operations in the country, as part of its World Trade Organization commitments to open up the sector to global competition.

The rules, which will take effect on December 11 – the fifth anniversary of China's entry into the WTO – place some tough restrictions on the banks as they seek to tap more than two trillion dollars

in household deposits.

The proposed amendment comes after criticism from foreign banks saying the loan-to-deposit ratio could 'greatly disrupt' their business.

"The criteria could be a tough request for foreign lenders if the regulator does not give them a five-year grace period," an unidentified banking executive told the paper.

Chip plant in Beijing

Beijing, November 20 (ft.com) – Beijing plans to build a US\$300m computer chip fabrication plant, underlining its determination to become a semiconductor manufacturing center.

Fullcomp International Investment, a Samoa-registered holding company, plans to manufacture chips on a contract basis for local semiconductor design houses and international electronics groups.

The plant, the third in Beijing, also reflects industry expectations that China will become an increasingly important link in the global electronics supply chain.

The city government and the suburban Linhe Industrial Development Zone have promised substantial support to the Fullcomp fabrication plant.

Court rules Baidu's music downloading

Beijing, November 20 (AFP) – A Beijing intermediate court ruled Baidu.com not guilty in lawsuit brought by international music companies, including EMI, Sony BMG, Warner Music and Universal Music. The companies claim Baidu is breaking the law by posting links to websites offer-

ing illegal music downloads.

They had demanded a public apology from Baidu, the suspension of its download service and 1.73 million yuan (US\$216,250) in compensation.

But the Beijing court ruled that Baidu's service, which provides web links to the music, did not con-

stitute an infringement, as all the music was downloaded from web-servers of third parties.

Baidu argued that "if the music companies had won, the whole search engine sector would have ground to a halt."

The report said the music companies would appeal the ruling.

Bank of Beijing seeks IPO

Hong Kong, November 22 (Reuters) – Bank of Beijing, 19.9 percent owned by Dutch lender ING, will meet investment bankers Saturday to pick underwriters for its US\$500 million initial public offering.

The investment banks include Morgan Stanley, HSBC, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, BOC International and China International Capital Corp.

China Postal Bank to be launched

Beijing, November 23 (Dow Jones) – China will complete its plan to convert the savings bureau of its postal system into a US\$10 billion savings bank by the end of the year.

The savings bureau, with 1.3 trillion yuan on deposit, will become China's fifth-largest bank by deposits, according to the bureau's website.

Tourism revenue to double

Beijing, November 22 (AFP) – Tourism revenue is expected to double by 2010 to US\$156.5 billion. The number of foreign tourists is expected to jump to 68.8 million. Domestic tourists are to hit 1.78 billion.

Last year, 36.7 million foreign tourists visited China. Revenue hit a record US\$97.8 billion.

Caterpillar moves regional center to Beijing

Beijing, November 23 (Antara News) – Caterpillar Inc. moved its Asia Pacific headquarters to Beijing from Tokyo, according to Caterpillar vice president Rich Lavin.

"Operational and sales success in China is a critical success factor for the company's long-term growth and profitability. This move will help us achieve those goals," Lavin said.

picoChip opens center in Beijing

London, November 22 (EE Times Europe) – picoChip, a provider of software-defined radio solutions, has set up a development center in Beijing.

The new Beijing center will facilitate the company's local business, including developing wireless systems based on TD-SCDMA and commercial WiMAX systems, and developing software technology used by picoChip's customers worldwide.

UK insurance broker arrives

Shanghai, November 23 (Reuters) – British insurance broker Jardine Lloyd Thompson launched its first joint venture in China on Thursday.

The company had won regulatory approval for the venture, to be based in Guangzhou, earlier this year.

"We'll focus on big commercial insurance brokerage deals, reinsurance consulting services and transportation-related insurance business in China," said JLT.

Sun Village

– caring for prisoners' kids



Children play in front of their "friendship cabin".

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng/He Jianwei

When Han Jing was sentenced to 10 years in prison as an accomplice in her husband's murder in 1996, the 37-year-old farmer from north China's Shanxi Province did not want to live on with the thought that no one would take care of her two kids.

But her daughter Chen Juan and son Chen Xing, now 16 and 13, are being well looked after at a special children's village in suburban Beijing, Sun Village Research Institute for Helping Special Children. Han visited them for the first time in 10 years this September when her sentence expired. She was relieved to see how well they were doing, both emotionally and physically.



A three-year-old child from Xinjiang



A father gives a kiss goodbye to his daughter



A little child in the nursery room Photos by Chen Chen

What is Sun Village?

Over 150 children between the ages of four months and 18 years old are now living in the Beijing Sun Village Research Institute for Helping Special Children, or Beijing Experimental Children's Village. It was formally established in Banqiao, Shunyi District in December 2000. It raises its own funds to foster and care for children of incarcerated parents by protecting their basic rights, ensuring they receive proper medical care, and providing education through the high school level. The children come from Beijing as well as over 16 other provinces within China.

Forty-eight-year-old Zhang Shuqin, the founder of Sun Village, was inspired to start the program while working for the Prison Police in Shanxi province for 15 years.

"I often see many children are left to wander homeless or beg on the streets without the support of their parents who are serving sentences in jail," she said. "Others suffer continuous abuse while being passed between relatives, and inevitably follow their parents' example by turning to crime."

Sitting in her cold office wrapped in a coat she said, "There's still no heating in the village because we are short of coal. We need about 500 tons in winter, but we can't afford it."

"Many children are deprived of education – some have never been to school by the age of 10. The most unfortunate may even die from malnourishment or lack of sufficient medical attention."

The children at Beijing Sun Village can be divided into four groups according to the situation of their families. "The first is that both the father and mother are in jail," Zhang said. "The second situation is that the mother is in jail because she killed the father. The third is

that the mother disappeared after the father was jailed. The last is that the father was sentenced to death because he killed the mother."

Living in the village

Zhang Shuqin hopes to provide a real home rather than a refuge for them to grow up emotionally and physically healthy. In the Sun Village, children live in nine "friendship cabins" that can house up to 18 children each. Murals decorate the outside walls, slippers are piled at the common room entrance, and nine volunteer "foster mothers" tuck the children into bunk beds at night.

Upon arrival at Beijing Sun Village, the children begin attending local kindergarten, elementary and middle schools, eventually graduating from the Shunyi Education Center high school. Every year the children's tuition, textbooks, classroom materials, school uniforms and necessary vaccinations must be provided by private contributions.

"We have got one university student from our Xi'an Sun Village," Liu Zhiyong, a foster mother working at the Children's Department of the Village said. "If they study really hard, they can continue their studies at university. We will find sponsorship for their schooling then."

As a non-governmental organization (NGO), Beijing Sun Village gets no government funding and has to rely on fluctuating social support. In order to provide for daily necessities, in April 2002 Village rented 17 hectares of farmland on which to grow dates, peanuts, corn and soy beans. In August 2005, it issued a tender for public adoption of its date trees at 50 yuan per tree per year. The money donated was earmarked for the children's education.

During the holidays, bigger children lend a hand in the fields. "The Village cannot live on charity alone, so the children have to learn to be self-reliant," Zhang says. She is

happy to be able to provide a place that makes these children feel loved and wanted instead of abandoned and lonely. Many visitors come regularly to the village to see them, bringing gifts of money, food and articles of daily use.

The children get up at 5:30 am every day. After cleaning their dorms and eating breakfast, they line up and walk to school. They go to bed at 9:30 pm. The Village has its own library, computer room, food store and gym.

Future for the children

Zhang regularly takes children to see their parents. Seeing that their children are being taken good care of encourages convicts to behave themselves in prison. Last year, Zhang took Li Bao and her sister Li Jing to see their mother. She was so grateful to the Village she wrote a letter to Zhang, asking to work in the Village when she was released from prison. She now lives with her girls and works as a volunteer in the Village.

"If these children continue to be neglected and treated as outcasts of society, their traumatic experiences could lead them to build up resentment toward, and even hatred for, society," Zhang said. "They could end up committing crimes just like their parents. Love and care for the children could help to break a cycle, and help their parents to reform more willingly."

When asked about the future of the Sun Village, Zhang said, "My wish is that there will be no Sun Village in the future." Zhang insisted that the government should care for the children instead. "We are persuading delegates to raise this proposal at the National People's Congress and the Chinese Political Consultative Conference," Zhang said.

"We have tried to eliminate discrimination towards those children. Most people believe that because the parents are criminals then so are their children. That discrimination risks pushing those children into a world of crime."

US church sends wheelchairs



"Thank you for the chairs." "My pleasure."

Photo provided by the Beijing Charity Association

By Huang Daohen

The US-based LDS Charities donated 500 wheelchairs to the Beijing Charity Association, an act marked at a donation ceremony held at a city senior citizen's center on Tuesday.

The Chinese Charity Federation, LDS Charities' local partner, will deliver the wheelchairs to local poor elders and the handicapped. Its local affiliate, the Beijing Charity Association will send 100 wheelchairs to disabled workers at one of its welfare fac-

tory, and other 400 wheelchairs will go to impoverished senior citizens in the countryside.

The Beijing Charity Association has run several charity programs since it was reestablished in 2003, including assisting the aged, poor students and the disabled, medical assistance and temporary relief. "We hope that people with handicaps can get real help and assistance solving some of the practical difficulties they face," Liu Guolin, deputy secretary general of China Charity Federation, said

at the ceremony.

Latter-day Saints Charities is a non-governmental organization run by the Church of the Latter-day Saints (better known as Mormons) which supports humanitarian relief and development projects around the world. In China, LDS partners with the China Charity Federation and focuses on care for orphans and elderly, supplying wheelchairs for the handicapped and emergency relief to those suffering from natural disasters.

Thinking of the children

By Chen Shasha

Save the Children (SCF) China, the local member of a UK-based international alliance of child welfare organizations, held a training workshop on November 20 to celebrate the 17th anniversary of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

"The UN Convention is based on a document drafted in the 1920s by a British woman called Eglantyne Jebb, who founded Save the Children Fund. So, SCF is not the newcomer to this field," Kate Wedgwood, SC China program director, said.

Wedgwood explained that China ratified the UNCRC in 1991, but many people here still know little about it, which is why SCF decided to hold the workshop.

"We have even been asked by the government to support children's participation in monitoring the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children. This is a great breakthrough and shows just how fast things are changing here," Wedgwood told the workshop.

But she said SCF faced difficulties applying UNCRC principles in China, largely because talking about rights was seen as sensitive by many in China.

The workshop used a number of methods to teach the principles of UNCRC, including games. "We are better understanding

children through recalling our own childhood," Zhang Jiawei, a student from Renmin University, said.

"There are some misunderstandings in China about the UNCRC," Li Ping of SCF China said. "Many parents here think that children should be beaten when they misbehave, and that it's a way to make them become better in the future," Li said.

Unlike some other nations, China has no laws prohibiting beating children, and no clear principles about what constitutes 'abuse'.

"I don't think the protection of children's rights will improve through economic development alone, it will also depend on how much the government invests in the area," she said.

In China, SCF mainly works with children under state care, street children, children affected by HIV/AIDS and migrant children. Recent projects include helping the government revise the law on the protection of minors, which had not been updated for over ten years.

"As other laws changed, some provisions in our protection of minors legislation were no longer relevant," Sun Tiezheng, of SCF China, said.

A judicial diversion project to protect children's rights will soon be implemented in Beijing, after a successful pilot project in southwestern Yunnan Province.

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News Corp. pulls plug on O. J. book, Fox special

Murdoch calls it an 'ill-considered project'



O. J. Simpson demonstrated in court in 1994 that his hands could not fit the gloves found at the site where his wife died.

By Lisa de Moraes and Bob Thompson, *Washington Post*

News Corp. has spiked its O.J. Simpson book and TV special in the face of public and professional outrage over the project, in which the former football star describes hypothetically how he would have killed ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

"I and senior management agree with the American public that this was an ill-considered project," News Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch said yesterday in a brief statement. "We are sorry for any pain this has caused the families of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson."

The Fox two-hour TV special "If I Did It, Here's How It Happened," announced just last Tuesday, had been scheduled to air as a November "sweeps" stunt next Monday and Wednesday.

By the end of last week, at least 10 TV stations affiliated with the Fox broadcast network had said they would not carry the two-part interview.

"The cancellation by the Fox network ... is a victory for the people who spoke out. It demonstrates the power of the people, whose voices were heard all the way to Hollywood and New York," Pappas Telecasting, which owns four Fox-affiliated stations, said in a statement.

Comments:

To allow a man to promote a sick and offensive book, and for this network to promote it all in the name of money, is disgusting. Fox may have a moneymaker on its hands, but the bad will it will generate will hurt in the long run.

— mark in florida

What a loss that non-convicted murderers shamelessly parade their arrogance and are given a platform to hypothesize the deaths that they most likely accomplished. Fox and Reagan Books are off my lists of viewing and reading materials.

— David L Hill

When I heard O. J. was in the news again, I thought I was going to read he was dead. Instead, I read that Fox is helping out a murderer just for ratings. Shame on you Fox!

— Kim

If you watch, pay attention to the ads. Write a list of all the ads played during the show and then never buy anything again that is advertised during this segment. In fact, we should all boycott all things advertised by Fox. If we stop buying things advertised by this network, I would expect that they might start to pull out. Maybe this would get Fox to pull the broadcast

— chrisJ

It's a sad commentary on the state of this country where entertainment value has now been reduced to allowing murderers, found not guilty by reasons of ineptitude and technicalities, to take a primetime seat at the TV table. This network should be ashamed of itself for even entering into a discussion on allowing this to occur.

— The Public

We can all take a step to save our rotting culture by boycotting the interview and the book of this despicable, soulless, drug-addicted murderer.

— Robert

The only good thing to come out of this book and primetime is maybe the Goldmans can collect some of the money they are owed from the civil suit, and that's only if some idiots buy the book. What an egomaniac!

— Pam Cox

It's unbelievable what the real killer will do for attention. He obviously cannot stand living as just another face in the crowd.

— JSR in Lake Charles, LA

I'm contacting all advertisers on Fox and boycotting them if Simpson's interviews are aired. The health community is worried about us stuffing our kids with Big Macs and the "entertainment" industry stuffing our brains with trash.

— Shirley Reilly

UK eyes ban on junk-food ads on kids TV

By Robert Barr, *Associated Press Writer*

London (AP) — Britain's television regulator on Friday proposed a ban on advertising of "junk foods" on programs aimed at children under 16, drawing swift condemnation from the food and advertising industries and health campaigners who wanted the government to go further.

"Based on the evidence and analysis, we believe the case for intervention is clear. We will introduce significant but proportionate measures to protect children under 16," Ed Richards, chief executive of the agency, known as Ofcom, said.

The food and drink industry and the advertising industry all protested against the proposals, as did health campaigners who wanted the regulator to go further.

Ofcom estimates that the ban on ads for foods high in fat, salt and sugar would cost broadcasters up to £39 million (US\$74 million) a year in advertising revenue. It forecast that broadcasters would not be able to replace all of that revenue but eventually could cut the loss to £23 million (US\$43 million) a year.

The proposed measures would not shield children from ads associated with adult programs, the agency said, but estimated that kids under 9 would see half as much junk food advertising and children under 16 would see 41 percent less.

Comments:

The moves made by Ofcom are a great start! I know we need tougher regulations if we are to tackle the "growing" problem of obesity, but something is better than nothing. At least future generations won't have to be bombarded with pizza and sweets adverts every five minutes, and anything which makes people discuss the state of the nation's eating habits is good news!

— Jenni Pocsai, Manchester, England

Having worked in the animated TV field, I can assure you that the creative community has no love lost for advertisers. There is constant pressure from toy, candy and other junk-food sponsors to "dumb down" the stories and make the characters into mindless, passive consumers. Writers in the animated TV field are of a very low caliber in quality and lack education other than in US trade, film and art schools.

— James S., Hollywood, CA, USA

Ban smoking. Ban "Junk Food." Ban "Chelsea Tractors." This is 2006, not 1984.

— Bernard Parke, Guildford, England

I am most uneasy about banning. The descriptions will always be a matter of argument and expensive supervision. What we have to do, as a society and as responsible adults, is to look after our children properly. This is meddling by bureaucrats.

— John Charlesworth, Sleaford, UK

If advertising is so powerful that it is the cause of obesity amongst children, then why doesn't the Government advertise the harmful effects of junk food?

— Vinay Mehra, Purley, Surrey

People don't eat junk food because they see a picture of it on a bus, they do so because it is tasty. It's not as if banning cigarette adverts has stopped people smoking.

— Simon Clark, London

It's unfortunate that junk food has invaded India where local fast food joints offer inexpensive and nutritious snacks. The junk food advertisements sway lot of young people. The growing obesity problem due to excessive use of both fats and salts has to be addressed seriously.

— M.M.GURBAXANI, Bangalore, India



Do you believe junk food is trash?

CFP Photo

Weekly topics

New York Times (US)

1. Clinton won easily, but Bankroll shows the toll
2. For Bush, Hanoi is largely seen from motorcade
3. The kid with all the news about the TV news
4. Democrats split about overhaul for ethics rules
5. US considers large, temporary

troop increase in Iraq

Newsweek (US)

1. Victims' families press Murdoch for O.J. details
2. Thomas Pynchon's new book: Review Part II
3. When reporters are targets
4. Does surgery work?
5. Syria and the Gemayel murder

Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Crazy Kramer's "n-word" sets off race uproar
2. Lure of reliving lost love fells bank's golden boy
3. Sex attacker flees after street assault
4. The good behind the bad and the ugly

5. Rocker to troops: don't whinge if hurt

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Canadians urged to check toys after Polly recall
2. Tories eye tax cut for couples
3. Car thieves like Civics
4. MPs to revisit gay marriage
5. Gay Israeli couples credit

Toronto

Daily Telegraph

1. Republicans to attack Pelosi
2. Putin critic "poisoned"
3. "Web rage" pickaxe attacker jailed
4. Exit Mr and Mrs Cruise
5. Blair: Iraq invasion a disaster

(By Jiang Xubo)

Enjoy the art: Peking Opera



Peking Opera is irresistible.

CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

The renowned Peking opera-singing week, called 'One Hundred Flowers in Bloom', offered a feast for Peking opera lovers at the Cultural Palace of Nationalities. The week, which runs from November 11th to 18th, highlighted a traditional series of performances.

"The opera is China's national opera with a 200 year history and it has become increasingly popular with people from across the world," said Shang Changrong, the president of the Chinese Dramatists Association.

"Traditional opera is coming back. We plan to cultivate people's ability to understand the unique art form so they can fully appreciate it," Shang said.

With its fascinating and artistic accompanying music, singing and costumes, the Peking Opera is full of Chinese cultural facts.

Peking Opera

Peking Opera is performed on stages in theaters, teahouses or temple courtyards. There are four main character roles: the man, the 'painted face', the woman and the clown, or *Sheng*, *Dan*, *Jing* and *Chou* in Chinese. An opera band consists of an orchestra and percussion band.

Face Paintings

The paintings are representations of the characters' roles. A red face usually depicts a heroic bravery, unrighteousness or loyalty; a white face symbolizes a sinister, treacherous and guile character, while a green face symbolizes surly stubbornness, impetuosity and lack of self-restraint.

Changing Faces

Face changing is a special technique that involves changing masks or facial makeup without the audience noticing. It is used to exaggerate the inner feelings of the

characters, set off the atmosphere and improve effects. Facial changes are done in four ways: blowing dust, manipulating the beard, pull-down masks and using a mop.

Xingtou

Costumes are called *Xingtou* or, more popularly, *Xifu* in Chinese.

Lavish costumes include *toukui*, a headdress, shoes and boots. Audiences can distinguish a character's sex and status by the type of head-dress, robes, shoes and baldrics associated with the role.

How to get involved

1. If you love Opera, you should have more contact with the art: listen to recordings and see more performances.

2. Go to the parks early in the morning. Opera lovers gather there to practice every day.

Those in Haidian should go to the Summer Palace, where lovers always practice under the Long Corridor. To those in Xuanwu,

Taoranting Park is worth a visit and residents in the southeast can go to Tiantan Park.

3. Try to find a training group in the community where you live. Almost every community has a public training class, organized by the government. Otherwise, you can apply to form one.

Where you should go:

Northern Kunqu Theater

14, Taoranting Rd, Xuanwu

Tel: 6352 2109

www.dongdongqiang.com

www.bjygy.com

Beijing Huguang Hall

3, Hufang Rd, Xuanwu

Tel: 6351 8284, 6351 0019

www.beijinhuguang.com

Beijing Great Education School

Rm 1815, Building A, Digital

Mansion, 2, Zhongguancun Rd,

Haidian

Tel: 6251 0088

www.jrxx.com

ASK Beijing Today

1. Gareth Binnarsley, from the UK, asked, where to find scented candles.

You can get scented candles at IKEA, which has recently moved to the north fourth ring road in Wangjing. Another place is the two-floor Liangma Flower Market next to the Lufthansa Shopping Mall near Sanyuanqiao, northeast of the third ring road. On the second floor there's a store with many kinds of glasses and candles. It has more catalogues than IKEA does, and most of their products are shipped over from abroad.

2. Is the water drinkable in Beijing?

According to the city's water bosses, it is. To be on the safe side, boil or filter tap water before drinking it.

3. I've been told that I'm supposed to register at my new apartment within 24 hours of arrival but I was too busy to have time. If I go to register now will they fine me?

Technically, you should register as soon as possible, but many people get away with not registering on time.

(By Wei Ying)

N W BEIJING TODAY

Winter Promotion

English



Subscribe for one year: ¥104.00, and choose either:

1. 3.3 fashion plaza coupon worth RMB100 yuan (available for the first 150 subscribers).
2. Three-month China ClubFootball membership (available for the first 500 subscribers).
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China Fashion



Guo Pei

2007 S/S

Record breaking design

By He Jianwei

A model with a grim expression dragged a nine-meter-long woolen cape onto the stage. This was Guo Pei's 2007 couture show last Thursday night.

Guo has worked in the field of custom-made fashion for 20 years. Last Thursday was her second personal show. Her first was 10 years ago.

The show was composed of four scenes, including 'moon light', 'star light', 'early morning light' and 'sun light'. "The four parts are like the rebirth of a life," Guo said. "I believe fashion has its own life and will go on forever."

At the show Guo set several design records. "The last dress is made by more than 100 workers over 50,000 hours or the equivalent of 10 years for one person," she said.

Also on display was a dress weighing 250kg with more than 300,000 pearls in the show window. "As we were making this



Photos provided by Guo Pei and China Fashion Week Committee

dress, one of the workers told me that the dress was too heavy and suggested using plastic beads. But I said that no matter how heavy it was we should continue to use real pearls," Guo said.

The diameter of the widest dress in the show was three meters. The skirt covered the width of catwalk.

Guo's design has challenged the limitations of length, width and weight. The models need assistants to help them walk along the catwalk. "I want to create the perfect design in terms of length, width and weight," she said. "It will be a painful walk for the models but they will just have to deal with it. This is the fashion world after all."

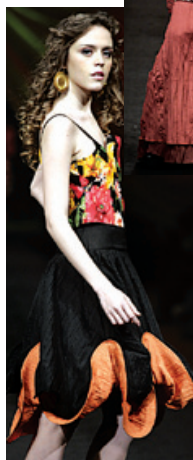
Pushing the boundaries

By Chen Shasha

Fashion designers always try to push the boundaries and Li Xiaoyan is no exception.

The manager of the Fangfang design company has brought a mediaeval European style to her clothes displayed at the fashion show.

Her inspiration came from Emma – one of Jane Austin's best-known novels, which was adapted into an Oscar nominated movie of the same name. With models from different countries in colorful and lacy garments, the show received rapturous applause. "It was a wonderful show," said Li, a designer from Hong Kong. "It's quite hard to work so many pleats into cotton dresses to make them look like floating waves, but that's exactly what Li has done. Her designs combine European and Chinese styles, with the two cultures colliding in some ways but harmonious in others."



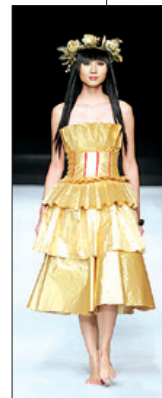
Colors and creativity

By Chen Shasha

Creativity involves all of the senses. When Luo Nan, designer of the Barbara brand, lays her hands on a piece of material she immediately imagines how it could be changed.

Barbara, winner of China's best female clothes designer prize in 2002, is known for its Chinese and Western combined style. Luo maintained the style for Barbara's spring/summer show. The show was separated into three themes, 'long vacation', 'romantic garden' and 'golden heaven'. "I guess the style should be quite retro in 2007, with tartan and stripes on the clothes," Luo said. In the show, cotton and satin were widely used. "As environmental protection becomes more of a trend it will influence all parts of life, including costume design," she said.

Among all the design shows, Luo's favorite was the 'golden heaven' show. She got her inspiration for this brand from traditional European films. All the models wore golden satin dresses, with golden anadems on their heads. The young designer, who has worked in fashion for six years, showed that she is going to be a designer to look out for at this year's Fashion Week.



Photos provided by China Fashion Week Committee



Union Week

Six Chinese designers tell their stories



Mark Cheung

Tibetan-styled tailoring

By He Jianwei

Mark Cheung's fashion show was unveiled to the sound of Tibetan singing on Tuesday night.

The theme of the show was "Tibet Days on Cloud". The stage was designed to look like a pilgrimage to Tibet. The background music was mixed with local Tibetan songs.

Tibet is a place that has long inspired Cheung. "Coming back from Tibet I was inspired body and soul, and baptized in the celestial beauty of the Tibetans," he said.

Cheung has adopted many Tibetan elements embodied in the colors and patterns. "I like to use lots of brown and purple," he said. "In my view, purple represents the mystery of Tibet, while brown represents the life exploration."

The typical Tibetan art, thangka, was used in Cheung's design. "I was so filled with joy when I saw thangka art in Tibet that I almost cried out,"



Photos by Xu Lezhong

he said. "The folk art is so avant-garde and awe-inspiring. I couldn't believe it was painting."

Every knot on his dresses is meant to express a Tibetan story. "In Jih-k'a-tse, there is a women's head ornament called a 'bakuo'," Cheung said. "It's bow-shaped and is made from red cloth-wrapped bamboo and decorated with 'dazha', a string of pearls. It's quite difficult to wear. You have to bind your hair into many

tiny plaits, fix the bamboo bow at the end of the hair and flatten both sides. In Tibet, there are many such complex ornaments."

"Why do freedom-loving nomadic people take so much trouble dressing up? I think this is an issue of form. In Tibet, I saw many original artistic elements, which can inspire the design of luxurious goods. They are strong in form and exceptional in expressiveness."

Culture Clash

By Han Manman

Chinese women's wear designer Luo Zheng, who launched her Shenzhen-based women's wear line, Omniao, in 1996 displayed her 2007 Spring-Summer High Fashion line on Tuesday to the theme of '21 Grams-the weight of the soul'.

The show was divided into four parts called 'Bourgeon of life', 'The language of growth', 'Metamorphosis of the butterfly' and the 'Desire to fly'.

"The inspiration for this show comes from my beloved butterfly-blue flower," Luo said.

Luo makes a picture of the growth and the graceful pose of the butterfly-blue by using the hollow, veiling, hand-knitted beads, embroidery and special eastern crafts. The third section is more about deep blue and black colors representing the legends and mystery and featuring the butterfly-blue struggling in the cocoon and finally, the purple wings flapping behind the body. At the end of the show the butterfly-blue is flying. She exhibits the harmony between western and eastern culture through the Chinese element, which has been internationalized. The use of beige, pure white and graceful purple creates a beautiful visual effect.

"I would like to try new things and I am an individual style designer," Luo said. "Compromise is not a word I use."

Luo, a fashion designer, seen by many as China's most valuable young fashion designer, is famous for her romantic style. Since she designed her first skirt at the age of 10, her passion for fashion has grown. After many years of hard work, she won a number of international and domestic fashion design awards.



Photos by Xu Lezhong

Bridal Bliss

By Han Manman

The series of wedding dresses shown by more than 10 professional models on Saturday evening were all from the Famory brand, China's largest producer of luxury wedding dresses. The show made the smartest use of traditional Chinese elements with fashionable western-style dresses, trains and all.

The dresses are more about 'luxury' with rich colors, international patterns and high-class fabrics like silk, threaded with gold and adorned with drapes. The designer Zhang Weiguo used low-cut dresses decorated with diamonds to show off the brides grace.

Zhang said that as the shows theme was 'blend', the wedding dresses combined both western and Chinese culture into one garment to show the Chinese woman's mystery and charm with a western woman's elegance and romance.

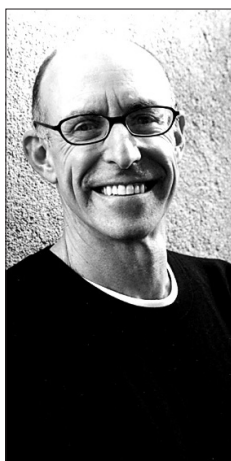
Zhang has recently received an award at the 2006 Top 10 Designers Competition in Guangdong province. He also won the top award at the Annual Association Awards on October 17.



Photos provided by China Fashion Week Committee

The Omnivore's Dilemma:

A Natural History of Four Meals



What is the greatest fault Pollan finds with the American diet?

Most of us are at a great distance from our food. I don't mean that we live "twelve miles from a lemon," as English wit Sydney Smith said about a home in Yorkshire. I mean that our food bears little resemblance to its natural substance. Hamburger never mooded; spaghetti grows on the pasta tree; baby carrots come from a pink and blue nursery.

— **Bunny Crumpacker, The Washington Post's Book World**

How does Pollan approach the dilemma of the omnivore?

The book is really three in one: The first section discusses industrial farming; the second, organic food, both as big business and on a relatively small farm; and the third, what it is like to hunt and gather food for oneself. And each section culminates in a meal — a cheeseburger and fries from McDonald's; roast chicken, vegetables and a salad from Whole Foods; and grilled chicken, corn and a chocolate soufflé (made with fresh eggs) from a sustainable farm; and, finally, mushrooms and pork, foraged from the wild.

— **Bunny Crumpacker, The Washington Post's Book World**

What's one of the most surprising things he unveils about the American diet?

One of the many eye-openers in the book is the prevalence of corn in the American diet; of the 45,000 items in a supermarket, more than a quarter contain corn. Pollan meditates on the freakishly protean nature of the corn plant and looks at how the food industry has exploited it, to the detriment of everyone from farmers to fat-and-getting-fatter Americans.

By Michael Pollan

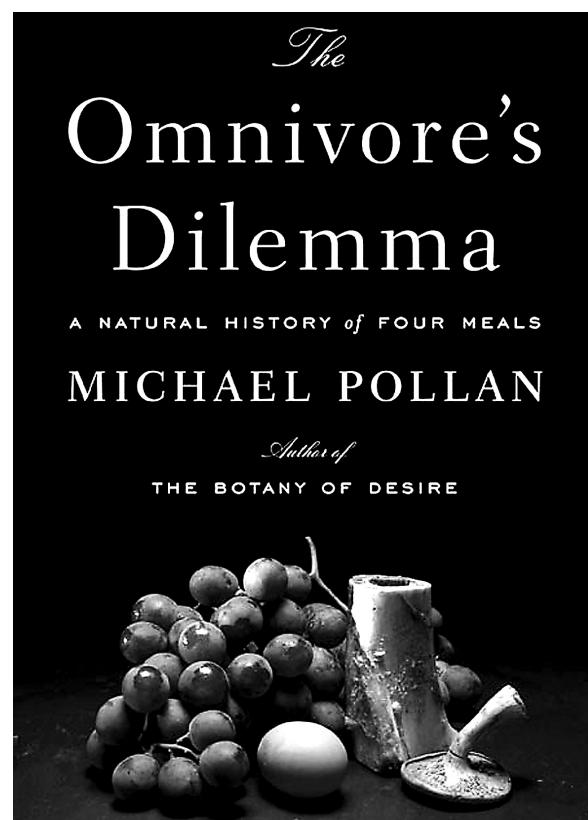
464pp, The Penguin Press HC, US\$16.17 (Amazon)

Synopsis

Americans aren't known for living the healthiest lives. Michael Pollan examines the origins of the country's questionable cuisines in his book *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. He takes a journey to examine food not only as a source of nutrition, but as a way humans interact with their world — and just how far modern America has distanced itself from that world.

Neither the childhood staples of Twinkies nor Chicken McNuggets are safe from his analysis, and, more often and not, everything begins with corn, corn and more corn. From the grain used to feed livestock to the oil everything is fried in to the sweeteners in everything from cola to ketchup, corn is stalking Americans.

Pollan brings the dilemma of the omnivore to light asking the tough questions, What should we eat? and How should we let that food be prepared? The American diet is examined from food fads to modern attempts to forget most food is coming from animals.



— **Pamela Kaufman, Publishers Weekly**

How has the industry been exploiting corn?

Big agribusiness has Washington in its pocket. The reason its titans want to keep corn cheap and plentiful, Pollan explains, is that they value it, above all, as a remarkably inexpensive industrial raw material. Not only does it fatten up a beef steer more quickly than pasture does (though at a cost to ourselves and cattle, which haven't evolved to digest corn, and are therefore pre-emptively fed antibiotics to offset the stresses caused by their unnatural diet); once milled, refined and recompounded, corn can become any number of things, from ethanol for the gas tank to dozens of edible, if not nutritious, products, like the thickener in a milkshake, the hydrogenated oil in margarine, the modified cornstarch that binds the pulverized meat in a McNugget and, most disas-

trously, the ubiquitous sweetener known as high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS).

— **David Kamp, The New York Times**

Is the book just a war on corn? What other problem ingredients end up in American food?

In the United States, Pollan makes clear, we're mostly fed by two things: corn and oil. We may not sit down to bowls of yummy petroleum, but almost everything we eat has used enormous amounts of fossil fuels to get to our tables. Oil products are part of the fertilizers that feed plants, the pesticides that keep insects away from them, the fuels used by the trains and trucks that transport them across the country, and the packaging in which they're wrapped. We're addicted to oil, and we really like to eat.

— **Bunny Crumpacker, The Washington Post's Book World**

It sounds like the book is full of warnings about not only the fast food diet, but the American diet in general.

We think we've tamed nature, but we're just beginning to learn about all that we don't yet know. Ships were once provided with plenty of food, but sailors got scurvy because they needed vitamin C. We're sailing on the same sea, thinking we're eating well but still discovering nutrients in our food that we hadn't known were there — that we don't yet know we need.

— **Bunny Crumpacker, The Washington Post's Book World**

What lengths does Pollan go to, to avoid a dangerous diet?

Pollan prepares a dinner with items from Whole Foods, investigating the flaws in the world of "big organic"; cooks a meal with ingredients from a small, utopian Virginia farm; and assembles a feast from things he's foraged and hunted.

— **Pamela Kaufman, Publishers Weekly**

Any complaints about the book?

I wish Pollan would stick his neck out and be more prescriptive about how we might realistically address our national eating disorder. We can't all go off the grid like Salatin, nor can we just wish away 200 years of industrialization.

— **David Kamp, The New York Times**

How would you sum up Omnivore if you were to recommend it to a friend?

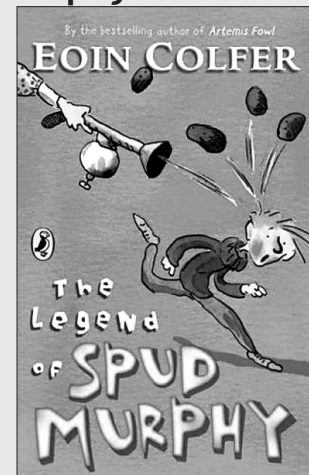
It's a fascinating journey up and down the food chain, one that might change the way you read the label on a frozen dinner, dig into a steak or decide whether to buy organic eggs. You'll certainly never look at a Chicken McNugget the same way again.

— **Pamela Kaufman, Publishers Weekly**

(By Derrick Sobodash)

Local shelf

The Legend of Spud Murphy



By Eoin Colfer

Puffin Books, 96 pages, 60 yuan

Will has four brothers and it's chaos in his house! If he's not being teased by his big brother Marty, he has to deal with the terrible, three-headed bundle of cuteness that is his three younger brothers. Even worse, his mother has the brilliant idea of shipping Will and Marty off to the library during the holidays. She just doesn't understand! Not only is the library no fun, it's also the habitat of legendary librarian Spud Murphy. If you make one false step, it's rumored she'll use her dreaded gas-powered spud gun.

We Need to Talk About Kevin

By Lionel Shriver

Counterpoint Press, 416 pages, 120 yuan

Eva Khatchadourian is a smart, skeptical New Yorker whose impulsive marriage to Franklin, a much more practical person, bears fruit in a baby, Kevin. From the start, Eva is ambivalent about him, unsure if she really wants a child, and has a sinister attitude toward her. Only good-old-boy Franklin, hoping for the best, manages to overlook his son's faults as he grows into older, a largely silent, cynical, often malevolent child. The later birth of a sister, his opposite in every way, deeply affectionate and fragile, does nothing to help, and Eva always suspects his role in an accident that befalls little Celia.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang

Tel: 6586 9507

Village of Stone

By Xiaolu Guo

Vintage, 192 pages, 90 yuan

Long ago, before the founding of the Republic, there was a small, well-to-do agrarian village. Legend says the village used magic like water to increase their crops 10 thousand fold, and that the populace was untouched by starvation, fever and hunger for a generation.

Then, one day, the mage who had made all this possible asked for help and was refused. The mage grew angry and threatened the people he would remove his magic. So the populace rose up and burnt him and his tower to the ground.

Available:

Foreign Languages Bookstore

Where: 235 Wangfujing Dajie

Tel: 6512 6903

(By Han Manman)

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Inker: self publishing favor in China

By He Jianwei

Dreaming of turning your blog into a book but unsure which publisher to choose? Now it's easy thanks to Inker, an increasingly popular Internet-based printing service.



What's Inker

Inker, or Yin Ke (publishing people) in Chinese, is a company to turn people's internet writings and drawing into printed books, albums and more.

Turning blogs into books has been a growing trend this year, and many big names in China's entertainment, literature and real estate scenes have published books of their blogs. However, because of steep costs in publishing, it's been mostly limited to the stars.

To fill the demand for low-cost self-publishing, a new market has opened up. The idea is to attract ordinary people with per-book printing costs as low as a couple dozen yuan – strikingly lower the cost of a publishing house self-publishing also gives authors the freedom to decide how many books to print.

What Inker has to say

Since going online in March, Inker has printed more than 8,000 books for its clients. "As long as the content is original and legal, it's welcome," Li Yi, CEO, said.

"Our customers span many ages, from 7-70," he said. Each age group tends to focus on printing one kind of material. Young people between 20-30 print articles from their blogs. People in the 40-50 bracket print their market analyses and evaluations. The older crowd age 60-70 usually prints their memoirs, Li said.



Self-publishing abroad

In Japan

Many Japanese publishing houses already provide self-publishing services in Japan. Some have a minimum cost of 550,000 yen (36,670 yuan), but smaller houses will evaluate the customer's needs and provide per-job pricing.

The steps are quite simple. As you type the name of your book on the Internet, and choose the size and the quality of paper, you will have your printed book after four or five workdays.

The best quality books are available in bookstores alongside Haruki Murakami's bestsellers.

The United States

Customers in the United States can publish books through Lulu (www.lulu.com). Publishing a book on Lulu is easy and only requires selecting your content, design and method of binding.

Books published through Lulu are available on Lulu's website and Amazon.com. Authors determine their book's base cost with no setup fees or minimum orders.

Netizens' comments

"I love Inker" Publishing on demand is already available in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States, and the demand for self-publishing on the Chinese mainland is huge. – Li Mingcheng

"Since copyrights aren't in the hands of private companies, it will help information to be available to the public." – Ixaxa

Tales of a self-publisher

An advertising employee by day and blogger by night, Sherry, recently used Inker to publish her four years of collected writings.

"Lots of people want to publish their own books, but I was always afraid publishing house editors would reject my works without even reading them," she said.

Sherry composed over 100,000 words of prose during her four years in college and continued blogging after she graduated. Out of fear of being rejected

by editors, she considered eating the steep publishing house costs on her own.

"I thought about making a budget. For example, for a 300-page book I would pay 10,000 to 15,000 yuan based on print quantity and copyediting, 3,000 yuan for design, 13,000 to 15,000 yuan for printing and bookbinding and 5,000 yuan in other costs. The budget would have been 40,000 yuan, and I'd realized I would just be burning money," she said.

Publishing houses usually have

strict production requirements. "I would have to print at least 3,000 copies. If the sales were too low, I could lose every-

thing," she said. Inker's rates are as low as 38 yuan per book, and there are no quantity requirements. Even a single book is acceptable, she said.

Publishing on Inker

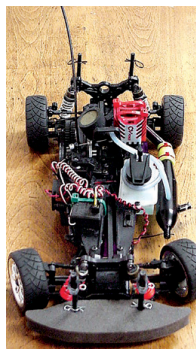
There are 5 steps to publishing on Inker:

- * Register on www.inker.com.cn
- * Download Intelligent Bookmaker
- * Design your book using Intelligent Bookmaker
- * Choose the number of books you need and how to pay
- * Inker will mail or send you the prints

By Gan Tian

If there's one thing I'm not hardcore about, it's cars. Reporting on Auto China 2006 has been a nightmare for me. However, I am hardcore about shopping, and after a few days of scouring the shops, I've found a way to connect the two!

TO DRIVE, OR NOT TO DRIVE



UNFINISHED MODEL RACE CAR

People are always scrambling for a peek under the cover. When the cover comes off, whatever is left underneath is, let's say that super sexy word, "naked!" Yes! Women like naked male models, men

like naked female models and we all like naked car models. They're great to collect.

Available: 504, Dayiyuan Shopping, No 32, Xijiekou Beidajie, Xicheng
Cost: 99 yuan



POLICE CAR

Hey there thief! Trying to steal my heart? Well I have a gift for you... you're under arrest! Oh, yes, tell me I'm your strong policeman! Huh? What, you don't like me and plan to give me to your kid? Wait ... what?! You have a kid?

Available: F/5, Soshow, No 40, Chongwenmen Waidajie, Chongwen
Cost: 350 yuan



OPTIMUS PRIME

What is he doing here? Well, he's a car. Well, he's a part-time car. Kind of. Really though, who doesn't love the Transformers? Kids today are missing out.

Available: 504, B/2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng
Cost: 698 yuan

CAR MODEL CUTOUTS

Ok, lazy boy, this may be a model, but it still takes patience and time to finish. I'm sure all the big kids remember building these during their childhoods. Well, this time it's more difficult, more complicated and more breath-taking!

Available: Cartoon network, opposite to the west gate of Beihang University, Haidian

Cost: 69 yuan (a book containing 20 hard pages of car-model kit)



GYPSUM MINIBUS MODEL

Ever seen a minibus model made from gypsum? No? Well, let's say you have an accident and smash your arm, then your doctor says you need some gypsum. After your arm heals, you have some gypsum left, so you decide to use the rest to make a minibus model. Wow, you must have been really bored!

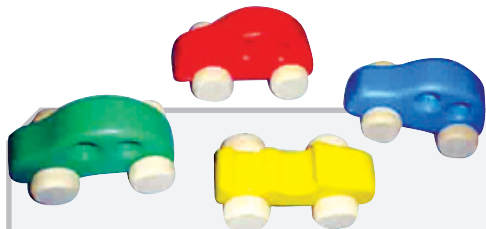
Available: F/5, Zhongyou Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng
Cost: 40 yuan



WESTEN BAY BUS MODEL

Did they mean "western"? This little model makes me think of sunshine, the beach, hot girls, free time and blue waves ... and then I look outside and realize it's cold, polluted and winter. I miss summer!

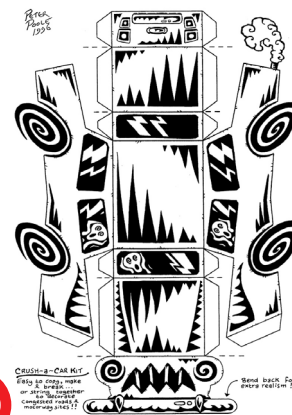
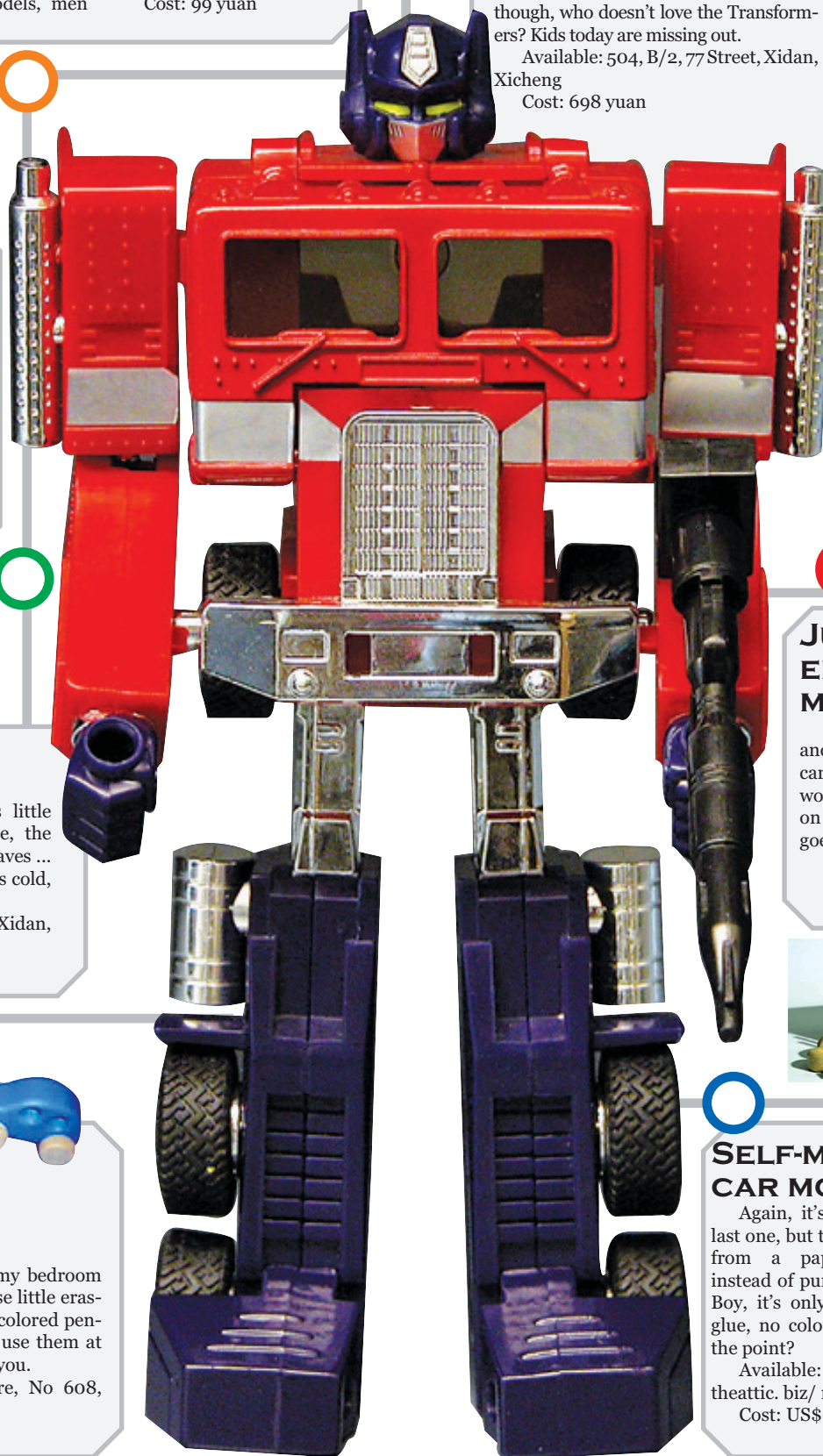
Available: 504, B/2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng
Cost: 420 yuan



CAR ERASERS

My niece scattered these all over my bedroom and I ended up stepping on them. These little erasers are adorable attachments for your colored pencils. Simple and stupid. Make sure to use them at home or the guys at work will laugh at you.

Available: Jinsong Stationery Store, No 608, Section 6, Chaoyang
Cost: 2 yuan



JUSTICE BROTHERS SPRINT CAR MODEL KIT

The difference between this one and the above is, this is a wooden car model, and the other is paper. It's wood and decals, so just paint it, slap on the stickers and some glue and it goes together easily.

Available:
www.justicebrothers.com
Cost: US\$15



SELF-MADE CAR MODEL

Again, it's similar to the last one, but this one is made from a paper-thin wood instead of punch-out boards. Boy, it's only one page! No glue, no color, all craft! Get the point?

Available: www.toysintheattic.biz/model.htm
Cost: US\$6.95



Any good ideas on shopping page sent to gantian@ynet.com will be rewarded.

By Chu Meng

Finding beautiful scenery and spring-like weather in Beijing during winter is something of an impossibility. However, if you are looking for a reminder that the cold days won't last forever, Yunnan cuisine may be for you.

Yunnan is China's most southwest province bordering Vietnam, Laos and Burma and is the heartland of many of China's minorities. Their food is known for its fresh, natural ingredients.

One of the most well known Yunnan dishes is 'Across the Bridge Rice Noodles' (*Guo Qiao Mi Xian*), steaming bowl of clear broth, sliced chicken and pork, rice noodles and seasonings. 'Steamed Pot Chicken' (*Qi Guo Ji*), another famous dish, is made by sealing the ingredients in a pot and steaming for several hours. Sometimes, special herbs are added to make this tasty dish even more nutritious.

Beijing's top four Yunnan restaurants

Jia 21 Guesthouse: subtropical breeze



Spare ribs

Photo by Yang Chen

By Gan Tian

If the name puzzles you, a little bit of Chinese should help make it clear: it's actually the address. Located in Yayuncun, Jia 21 is not as big as many famous restaurants there, but it has its own special Yunnan and

Guizhou taste.

Decorated with a subtropical flair, the restaurant has water, stones and greenery.

Spare ribs (48 yuan), the most popular dish, made my mouth water. One quick glance at the dish's black juice and green and red peppers will remind you of Yunnan and Guizhou's colorful minorities. The pork itself packs a spicy punch.

Gao Minghan, the manager, said people these days are eating the atmosphere more than the food. "We focus on providing a soft and relaxing atmosphere and a comfortable environment."

Where: No. 21, Section A, Beituchenglu, Chaoyang

Open: 9am-11pm

Tel: 6489 5066

Cost: 80 yuan per person



Steamed Pot Chicken (*Qi Guo Ji*)



Rice rolls

Photos provided by Cha Ma Gu Dao

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South Silk Road (*Cha Ma Gu Dao*)

By Chu Meng

South Silk Road, one of the most famous Yunnan restaurants in Beijing, offers typical Yunnan specialties like smoked ham, wild mushrooms and homemade rice wine. Its Across the Bridge Rice Noodles and Steamed Pot Chicken aren't to be missed. The restaurant's second floor is made of glass. So ladies, if you plan on wearing a dress, you might prefer to sit on the first floor. The branch in Houhai has plenty of outdoor seating and a good view of the

lake – in summer time of course.

Branch 1: No. 12-13 Tianhefang, Houhai, Xicheng

Open: 10:30am-2am the next day

Tel: 6615 5515

Location 2: 3/F, D Tower, SOHO, No.

88 Jiangguo Road, Chaoyang

Open: 10:30am-12am

Tel: 8580 4286

Location 3: 2-3/F, 4 Anhuili, Chaoyang

Open: 10:30am-8pm

Tel: 8580 4286

An Yuan Wu Hao

By Chu Meng

Minimalist name. Artsy interior. Remote location.

The restaurant is in an old building in Beijing's Asian Games Village. Though the food may not be authentic, it still tastes good. Reasonable prices make it a good option for a simple dinner.

An Yuan Wu Hao is the peak of Beijing's minority food obsession. The cuisine is a trendy take on Naxi-influenced Yunnan dishes. The colorful dishes are a striking contrast to the bare concrete

floors, black painted ceilings, and vertical sheets of pale, translucent cloth.

The Hot and Spicy Tilapia, a mix of diced deep-fried fish, green onion, garlic and Yunnan red peppers is worthwhile. The Pineapple Rice and Across the Bridge Rice Noodles are recommended, but the best offering is their free peanuts, salty and sweet with a hint of numbing peppercorn.

Where: 2/F, 5 Anyuan Beili Road

Open: 11am-10pm

Cost: 60 yuan per person

Tel: 6497 9173

Zhong Ba Lou

By Chu Meng

Another Yunnan restaurant, Zhong Ba Lou, is less stylish than An Yuan, but is conveniently located in the Sanlitun bar district. It's hidden in a hutong opposite 3.3 Shopping Center, and can be hard for first timers to find. However, the dishes are worth the effort.

The house specialty is Egg Fried with Jasmine Blossoms. The tender braised spare ribs in hot pepper sauce and the stewed chicken and papaya, a pleasant mix of spicy and sour, are both good choices.

After dinner hour, the restaurant transforms into a lively bar.

The lackluster wait staff and loud wall-mounted TVs are the only drawbacks in an otherwise enjoyable dining experience. As it is one of the most famous in Beijing, reservations are necessary.

Where: No. 8 of east Sanlitun Zhong Jie, opposite the 3.3 Shopping Center in the Sanlitun bar street

Open: Daily 11am-2pm, 5pm-10pm

Tel: 6413 0629

Cost: 50 yuan per person

Growing old slowly, and happily

By David Drakeford

When Woody Allen was asked how he would like to be remembered, his terse response was, "For not having died." For most of us, an eternal life isn't an option, but we can still aim for a long and happy one

And maybe we can age more gracefully than Woody.



Pet theory

Pets are like children without the stress. They can comfort you on even the most glum of days. Lowered blood pressure, decreased risk of depression and even faster recovery times can be yours

for the price of a four-legged friend. Tending plants is another therapeutic way to relax and unwind. A glimpse of greenery alone has been shown to benefit the bedridden.

The walk of life

If you're getting on in the years, walking is a safer alternative to fast-paced sports. Light exercise not only aids aerobic fitness, but also reduces the chance of diabetes, cancer and dementia-age-

old curses of old age. After 40 years, the body starts to lose its battle against fat, but that process can be stopped in its tracks by weight training three times a week.

Think positive

Harvard researcher Dr Laura Kubzansky conducted a study with the cheesy title of "Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?" The name won't win any awards, but its conclusions seem to hold water. Anger and frustration can lead to smoking, drinking and

poor eating habits. An optimist is better equipped to break bad habits or avoid them entirely. He or she is also more likely to seek medical advice and actually follow that advice. There is evidence that positive thinking can boost the immune system.

Release the pressure

Living in Beijing, we all feel stress, but did you know it can shrink your brain? Bruce McEwen, head of neuroendocrinology at Rockefeller University, New York City, has been busy making lab rats live the rat race. Neurons in the hippocampus can shrink from stress and impair the rodent's memory. The prefrontal cortex can be similarly affected damaging decision-making and attention. He believes humans face similar problems.

Assuming we can't give up our stressful lives, what should we do to improve the situation? "A combination of psychotherapy, cognitive behavior therapy and pharmaceuticals could actually change the brain and restore it more or less to normal," McEwan says. Anything a bit easier? "Exercise is another potential booster," he says. "There's growing evidence that exercise has very powerful effects."

What do the Chinese think of all this?

Chinese people are impressed by people who live long – and who can blame them? High rates of smoking, a poor environment, stressful workplaces, and yet Beijing parks at 5 or 6 am are a sea of gray hair and wrinkled smiles. How do the old Chinese people do it? If you can beat back the yawns, you'll see their secret.

Exercise. Lots of it.

A Chinese granny's favorite means of transport is a brakeless bicycle wobbling wildly across the city. When she arrives in the park, she starts to practice tai chi, dance or at least stroll backwards. The dark mass of leaves in that old jar at her side is actually green tea, a super anti-oxidant that will prevent oxidization in your precious cells.

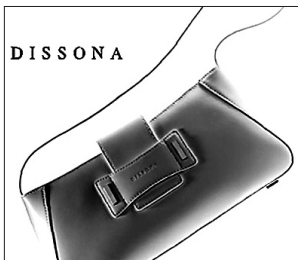
Finally there's the Chinese diet. You could have quite an argument over whether China has a healthier diet than the West, but waistlines speak louder than words. The obese westerner's fat cells make for excess baggage, hardened blood vessels and a high risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Surrounded as we are by ancient Beijingers having the time of their lives singing dancing and harrying pedestrians, who wouldn't hope to live out their years the same way? So, look after yourself – and others.



Free shark fin soup

Eat at Xin Du Cai Fu (6 Xiaozhuang Chaoyangmenwai, Chaoyang) on November 25 and get a free bowl of shark fin soup. For details, call 6506 0507.



Free reticule

Spend over 1,380 yuan at the Dissona counter in the Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) and get a free reticule worth 680 yuan until November 30. For details, call 6257 6688.



Free mouse pad

Spend over 600 yuan on Swatch products in the Chen Xi Dong Fang shopping center (1 Dong Changanjie, Dongcheng) and get a Swatch mouse pad for free. For details, call 8518 4488.



Free doll

Buy a Barbie Girl at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) and you will get a free Kelly Doll until November 30. For details, call 6257 6688.



Free dish

Eat at Chuan Liu Bu Xi (2 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian) and get a free fish or beef dish until November 30. For details, call 5162 7878.



Buy one get one free

Buy a plate of chicken wings at Viva Curry (1 Dongfang Xintiandi, Wangfujing, Dongcheng) and get another plate free until November 30. For details, call 8518 6575.



800 yuan voucher

Spend over 1,000 yuan at Tai Ping Yang (2 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang) and get an 800 yuan voucher until November 26. For details, call 6539 3888.



360 yuan voucher

Spend over 3,000 yuan on American Standard products at B&Q (117 Xisihuan Beilu, Haidian) and get a 360 yuan voucher until November 26. For details, call 8846 6611.



30 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Xiao Lan Yang hot pot restaurant (59 Youanmennei Dajie, Xuanwu) and get a 30 yuan voucher until November 30. For details, call 6351 6885.



200 yuan voucher

Spend over 198 yuan at Zhong You Plaza (176 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a 200 yuan voucher until November 30. For details, call 6601 8899.



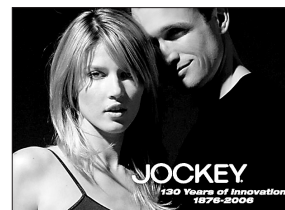
20% off

Get up to 20 percent off all Xie Rui Lin jewelry at the Chen Xi shopping center (1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) until November 26. For details, call 6505 6118.



158 yuan voucher

Spend over 150 yuan at Wu Mart Plaza (Beitapingzhuang, Haidian) and get a 158 yuan voucher until November 30. For details, call 6208 1515.



19% off

Get 19 percent off Jockey thermals at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian). For details, call 6257 6688.



20 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Cui Wei shopping center (33 Fuxinglu, Haidian) and get 20% off and a 20 yuan discount voucher until November 26. For details, call 6816 7749.



Buffet dinner

South-east Asian flavor buffet dinner at Qin Yuan restaurant (6 Jiangtailu, Chaoyang) will be 138 yuan per adult and half price for kids under 12. For details, call 6437 6688 ext. 1971.



50% off

Eat the buffet dinner at the Westin Hotel (9 Jinrongjie, Xicheng) every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and get up to 50% off. For details, call 6606 8866.

(By Terence Lu)

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NEW YEAR



SPRING FESTIVAL

Friday, November 24

Exhibition

Phrase – Zhang Peili
Solo Exhibition



Where: CURRENTS – Art and Music, No 2 Dongbajianfang Shuangbao Xiaoqu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until December 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 5205 3805

Movie

Le prix du pardon

A thick fog has been hanging for days over a small village on



the southern coast of Senegal, preventing the fishermen from putting to sea. The old village chief is dying and cannot lead them. His 20-year-old son, Mbanik, must replace him in defying the spirits. When the

fog lifts, the young Mbanik wins recognition from the villagers and a greater place in the heart of Maxoye, a girl in the village. However, his success makes Yatma, his childhood friend, jealous.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, until November 29
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

The Banquet

A loose adaptation of *Hamlet*, *The Banquet* is set in an empire in chaos. The Emperor, the Empress, the Crown Prince, the Minister and the General all have their own

enemies they would like to finish off at a night banquet.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until November 25
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745



Sunday, November 26

Exhibition

Franz Motschnig Yang Solo Exhibition

Where: Gallery Beijing Space, Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30 pm, until December 3

Admission: Free

Tel: 13381221158

Movie

Si-Gueriki, la reine mère



After an absence of 10 years, Idrissou Mora-Kpai returns to Benin and his family. Against all expectations, this journey provides an opportunity to discover the woman who served his father, his mother.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until November 29

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Music

Ten Joint Array – Sound Opera

The three core participants including Feng Hao, Xiao Wei and Yang Tao, are all cutting-edge sound artists.

Where: D22 Bar, No 13 Chengfu Lu, Haidian

When: 10pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6265 3177



Saturday, November 25

Exhibition

Ice and Fire



Sculpture and installation exhibition by Paolo di Capua.

Where: OffiCina, Factory 798, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 12am-7pm, until December 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 1324

Exhibition by Lucy and Jorge Orta

Where: Gallery Continua Beijing, Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until December 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6436 1005

Movie

Chloe in the Afternoon



Eric Rohmer ends his cycle of Six Moral Tales with this delightful film starring Bernard Verley as Frederic, a happily married man who discovers that he can't stop looking at beautiful women. As he says in a voiceover, "I feel marriage closes me in, cloisters me, and I want to escape." His escape comes to him in the form of Chloe, a woman from his past. They talk of their problems and their relationships and, before long, Frederic finds that he is becoming



increasingly attracted to her.

Where: Box Cafe, Xiwang-zhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Fleeing by Night

Set primarily in the 1930s, this film tells of the unrequited passion of a theater owner's

daughter, and the cellist who would have been her fiancée for a mesmerizing Chinese opera star who is kept by a wealthy, controlling, yet oddly sympathetic lover.

Where: Hart Center of Arts, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxiaoqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6435 3570

Stage in December

Music

Lin Zhaoliang Violin Solo Concert

Who: Lin Zhaoliang
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, December 1

Admission: 80-680yuan

Li Yundi Piano Recital

Who: Li Yundi
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, December 3

Admission: 100-1,280yuan
Cai Qin Vocal Concert

Who: Cai Qin, one of the Taiwan Ivy Singers
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, December 16

Admission: 180-1,680yuan

Christmas Eve Concert

Who: Richard Clayderman
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, December 24
Admission: 180-2,880 yuan

The New Year's Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, December 31

Admission: 100-1,000yuan

Dance

Russian Royal Ballet

Who: Russian Royal Ballet,

originated from Moscow Grand Theater, includes 40 dancers.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, December 15-16
Admission: 80-800 yuan

Opera and Drama Snow White

Who: Teatro del Carretto
Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer Theater, No 8-2 Dongdan

Santiao, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, December 1-3
Admission: 50-120 yuan

Thunderstorm (Lei Yu) – Cao Yu Drama Series

Who: Beijing People's Art Theatre
Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, November 9-13
Admission: 80-500 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)